

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3838
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012
NON TIMBER FOREST PRODUCE POLICY
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is existence of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) policy at the national level;
- (b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has identified any concern areas in the said policy;
- (d) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (e) No, Sir. There is no specific policy for Non-Timber Forest Produce (Minor Forest Produce) at the National level. However, National Forest Policy, 1988 emphasises the importance of Minor Forest Produce in providing sustenance to tribal population and to other communities residing in and around the forests, which should be protected, improved and their production enhanced with due regard to generation of employment and income. The major areas with respect to NTFPs which need focus include sustainable harvesting of NTFPs, its proper processing for value addition and adequate payment to primary collectors. Many States have Forest Development Corporations and Minor Forest Produce Federations which work for collection, processing, value addition and marketing of various NTFPs with the aim to enhance livelihood support of primary collectors. Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) are also working towards sustainable harvesting and value addition of NTFPs in various States of the country.